

NOT AS PLANNED

CRAIG REES

Central

Matthew 24:42-44
pg. 993

Jesus doesn't call for crazy calculations or pointless predictions but spiritual preparation. He calls us to be ready for an event over which we have no control.

When we know the end, but don't know the plan, we aren't called to wait, we are called to prepare.

Planning

To plan is to impose our will on the future.

The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.

Proverbs 21:5

**A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but
fools detest turning from evil.**

Proverbs 13:19

Preparation

Preparation is laying the right foundation for how and when God's will is to be imposed on our future.

This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

Exodus 12:11

God is preparing His people for their freedom by asking them to make a public profession of faith. The future comes to those who take public steps of preparatory faith.

The Problem

We can be too quick to plan and too slow to prepare.

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

Hebrews 12:11–13

Critical Questions:

1. Are you dealing with something that you cannot control?
2. Are you dealing with something out of control?
3. Do you see a tomorrow that you are not prepared for today?

There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

Ezra 8:21

Spiritual Preparation Questions:

1. Do you have a serious spiritual life?
2. Are you Biblically literate?
3. Are you connected with a local body of believers?



APRIL
30



MAY
14



MAY
7



MAY
21

CENTRAL CONNECT *Lunch*

APRIL 30 • 12:30 PM

